

Serial No. 09/281,717

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 16, and 30 – 62 are pending and under consideration in the instant examination. Claims 34–43 are withdrawn. With this Response, Applicant cancels claims 44–50.

Examiner Moran is kindly thanked for pointing out the status of the claims in her Office Communication, mailed February 25, 2004, (“the Communication”) and for the opportunity to discuss the same by telephone, March 10, 2004.

In brief, the current listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application, and is being submitted herewith in an effort to comply with the request, in the Communication, to clarify the status of the claims. Accordingly, the current listing identifies all claims as one of the following: “original”, “withdrawn”, “previously presented”, or “cancelled”. Furthermore, all mark-ups presented in the immediately previous amendment, filed December 16, 2003, have been removed from the instant listing, because it is assumed that such mark-ups have now been entered.

Applicants take this opportunity to make the following observations regarding the claims. As noted in the Communication, Applicants’ amendments of October 16, 2003, and December 16, 2003, were both entered upon entry of the RCE mailed December 16, 2003. Accordingly, claims 44–50 should not have been designated as “Not entered” in the amendment of December 16, 2003, but instead, should have been presented in full with an alternative designation. However, as has also been acknowledged, claims 44–50 are identical to claims 51–57. Accordingly, with the instant Amendment, Claims 44–50 have been cancelled.

It is hoped that the instant listing of claims is sufficient to rectify the issues presented in the Communication, and to ensure a swift resumption of prosecution on the merits.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks presented hereinabove, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in good and proper order for allowance. Withdrawal of the Examiner’s rejections and early notification to this effect are earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (order no. 61040-0008) for the appropriate amount. A copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

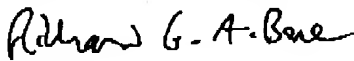
Date: March 10, 2004

Richard G. A. Bone
Limited recognition under 37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b)
(Copy of certificate attached hereto.)

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper is being filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office by facsimile transmission on March 10, 2004 to facsimile telephone number 703-873-9306.



Richard G. A. Bone

March 10, 2004

Date

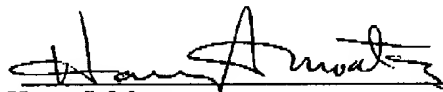
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